(b) It is the core responsibility of Special Crimes Division of the CBI to investigate cases of conventional nature entrusted by Courts/Government. CBI has an exclusive Division *i.e.* Anti Corruption Division to investigate cases relating to corruption.

(c) The rate of conviction in cases investigated by the CBI has been consistently above 65%. CBI enjoys the thrust and confidence of public, judiciary and the Government and has been playing pivotal role in investigation of important cases. The Constitutional Courts have in the last three years entrusted 512 cases for investigation.

Census for BPL population

719. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of census or other exercises, if any, carried out last at the behest of the Planning Commission or any other agency of Government with a view to determine the volume of population living Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) the details of the parameters relied upon for ascertaining BPL category;

(c) whether Government is contemplating revision of the said parameters, keeping in view the consistently higher rate of inflations in foodgrains and other essential commodities especially with a view to ascertaining the volume of BPL population, realistically;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The National Sample Organization (NSSO) periodically conducts nationwide survey of consumption expenditure. Based on this data, the Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below poverty line (BPL) at the State and national level, separately in rural and urban areas. The latest estimate of poverty is available for the year 2004-05, based on large sample survey of consumer expenditure of the NSSO collected in its 61st round (July, 2004 to June 2005). Using poverty line defined in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 356.30 for rural areas and Rs. 538.60 for urban areas, the percentage and total number of BPL persons has been estimated.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh Tendulkar. The terms of reference of the Expert Group include review of alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across States, and in the light of this, to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

The poverty lines which are used to estimate the number of people living below the poverty line are periodically updated to take into account the price inflation of food grains and other essential commodities.

(e) Does not arise.

Integrated energy policy

720. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has called a meeting of the full Planning Commission recently to discuss the integrated energy policy and deliberate on the country's nuclear energy programme;

(b) if so, the details discussed and decision arrived at the meeting: and

(c) whether Government is focusing on the need to augment electricity generation, which has become imperative in light of Government's growth projects and thrust on poverty reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, meeting of full Planning Commission was taken by Prime Minister to discuss the draft Integrated Energy Policy for the Country.

The report of Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy submitted in August 2006 forms the basis for formulation of the proposed Integrated Energy Policy. The policy document proposes an approach for optimal supply & utilization of energy and the creation of a competitive energy market in India. Nuclear energy remains an important element of India's energy mix.

It was decided that the proposed Integrated Energy Policy be submitted for the Cabinet approval.

(c) Yes Sir.

Utilisation of funds in Government schemes

721. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether utilization of funds is the main problem in Government schemes;

(b) whether utilization of money meant for various schemes of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development have fallen short of achievement targets in a majority of its big schemes;

(c) if so, the other Ministries which have not been able to utilize funds for the schemes; and

(d) if so, the action Government has taken on these Ministries and to what extent Government is considering to see that all the schemes where funds have been provided are fully utilized by Ministries concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special category status to Rajasthan

†722.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of various special conditions such as two-third desert and drought-prone area, vast international border abutting Pakistan etc. Government is contemplating to grant special category status to Rajasthan similar to North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.